PR 10545

1962

N
504

FO 1110/1560

(Printing Instructions)

(Outward Action)

Commonwea
being put
eyes are

The le
Indian se
in UK, hol
show clear
against.
as attack

PR

INFORMATION RESEARCH DEPT.

PR 10545/1

1962 18/4

GEOGRAPHICAL 10545

FROM

Mr. J.S. Bennett, Bangkok to Mr. Glass.

No. Q. 2281/7/62 SECRET

Dated January 25

Received January 29.

SUBJECT:

IRD work in India, Pakistan, Malaya and Ceylon.

References

(Printing Instructions)

(Outward Action)

(Action completed)	(Main Indexed)
GG 24.4.'62	11/2/64

MINUTES

It is evident that in none of the four Commonwealth countries is any real effort being put into IRD work, and that official eyes are not opened to its importance.

The lesson of the first two paragraphs of the Indian section is that no advance has been made in UK information policy here in 15 years. These paragraphs show clearly the difficulties that Mr Joy is up against. Generally, IRD work is seen simply as attacking, almost gratuitously, third countries with which India has relations. There is no apparent realisation of the role in IRD work of counter-propaganda.

It may be, in view of the references in (a) and (b) of the Indian section to failure of writers "to understand social and economic conditions in Asia", that special material for the Indian sub-Continent should be commissioned. Mr. Joy's first reports will doubtless give us a line on this.

D.C. Pretty Parsons
6/2

Mr Tuckett
Mr Barclay
Mr Glass

Obviously everything depends

J211 59727—3

depends on Mr. Jay's ability to overcome Delhi's inhibitions. Despite the combined efforts of the Department over a period of years Delhi seem to persist in misunderstanding the use and role of IRD material. IRD do, by the way, provide special articles for Delhi on request.

[signature]

9/2

In Pakistan a certain amount of I.R.D. material is published via the CENTO counter Subversion Organisation. Mrs Elwell will be able to stimulate this further when she attends the CENTO C.S.C. meeting in Lahore next month.

We shall say nothing to her. [signature]

13/2

Mr Hopson

The talks I had with the Dep. High Commissioner, the High Commissioner & SIS in Delhi encouraged me to believe Mr Jay would be given a fair break. In particular the High Commissioner said he would like to file an questionnaire & comments & to give me suggestions to amend it. I spoke

Number of copies....

Number of copies of enclosures.....

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Minutes

Spare copy of the questionnaire should be sent to Mr Joy for his own guidance, now. C.R.O. have sent official copy to H.C.

26/3

Mr Rivett-Carnac

A copy of the questionnaire is attached. Could you please arrange to send it to Mr Joy.

Mr Boyman

Mr Rivett-Carnac

Copy of my letter PG. 46/5/1 of 9.4.62 attached.

A) Mr Boyman CRO to Mr Joy New Delhi 9/4

CS 16/4

SECRET

Enclosure

SECRET

RECEIVED IN
29 JAN 1962
PRIOS45/1.

BRITISH EMBASSY,

BANGKOK.

January 25, 1962.

Q. 281/7/62

Dear Leslie

You asked during your visit to Bangkok to have extracts on I.R.D. work from the reports on information work prepared by India, Pakistan, Malaya and Ceylon for the Eden Hall Conference. Herewith the information you asked for:

MALAYA

"In Federation there is successful agreement with Government whereby we supply through S.L.O. and Special Branch. Use is growing. They supply material to own committees in all States. We have contacts with leader writers on Straits Times."

CEYLON

"Activities are limited to the distribution of literature to reliable contacts, distribution of publications such as "The New Imperialism" and "The Anatomy of Communism", placing of articles in the Press and discreet publication of articles in "News from Britain".

There has been no spontaneous increase in demand but, of course, we are reaching many more people with books such as "The New Imperialism" and "The Anatomy of Communism". We distributed 140 copies of the former and 180 of the latter and had several appreciative letters from school principals, from librarians and from private recipients."

PAKISTAN

"I.R.D. publications are distributed by the High Commission (not B.I.S.) to central and certain provincial Government Departments and selected individuals, though not directly to private Pakistanis (because this would be embarrassing under existing Martian Law Regulations). As the result of our enquiries about the use being made of this material we have recently received a request from the Ministry of External Affairs for a large number of additional copies to be distributed to the two provincial Governments."

INDIA

ANTI-COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA

"B.I.S. works on the principle that the most effective anti-Communist policy is that which governs our day-to-day op operations, to present a positive picture of Britain as a dynamic, modern democracy, the focal point of an expanding multi-racial Commonwealth, which offers more to its citizens than Communism does.

/Over

L.C. Glass, Esq., C.M.G.,
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

SECRET

SECRET

Over the past fifteen years B.I.S. has built up a reputation as a government organisation which operates in a factual and open way and has remained remarkably free of the propaganda stigma which attaches to certain other foreign information agencies. To guard this reputation, which earns us the widest press coverage of any official agency, it follows that we must avoid blatant, overt, or covert anti-Communist propaganda activity. One false move could undo the work of years.

Against this background we can however make effective and discreet use of the services provided by I.R.D. These services fall broadly into two groups:

a) Current Affairs - This largely takes the form of feature articles on anti-Communist themes supplied in the general output of I.R.D. and of articles specially commissioned by I.R.D. on the basis of suggestions put up by information posts. The everage run of I.R.D. features are not normally suitable for the Indian Press - they are either too hard-hitting, or else reveal a lack of knowledge of sub-continental conditions. There is, however, an important potential for the specially commissioned anti-Communist feature and we have indeed registered some notable successes over the past year.

b) Background Material - This service comprises both attributable and non-attributable booklets, roneoed briefs, and other research documents. With the attributable booklets and pamphlets we have again found a weakness in the writer's understanding of social and economic conditions in Asia; this not infrequently destroys much of the point of a pamphlet's message. Sometimes these pamphlets err in being too blatantly critical of certain Communist countries, i.e. "X" Publishing Company could and might involve us in difficulties with the Indian authorities, who object to attacks against third countries. Non-attributable material, which often contains useful research information for, say, the leader writer, presents special problems in handling because of our inability to reveal the source of material.

It was our dissatisfaction with the restrictions on, and the use we were able to make of, I.R.D. services which led to a request to London to send a member of the I.R.D. Editorial staff to India to study the position and see in what way I.R.D. could meet our requirements better. Possibly the most important proposal which arose from our discussions with this officer was the suggestion that selected items from the I.R.D. output might be dovetailed into the text of "Positive" publications which B.I.S. is now translating into the main Indian languages on an increasing scale. This could of course also be done with out English language output, but even greater care would have to be exercised. The marrying of I.R.D. material to the B.I.S. output, even on the modest scale contemplated, would require the whole-time attention of an experienced officer specially deputed for the work if the inevitable risks to the B.I.S.'s reputation were to be avoided. This officer will soon arrive in India.

/He

SECRET

He will handle all aspects of I.R.D. work. He will be the Publications Officer in B.I.S. responsible to the Director of B.I.S. but he will continue to work in close collaboration with Political Division."

(J.S. Bennett)

SECRET

TOP SECRET

PG 40/5/1

Commonwealth Relations Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.
9th April, 1962.

RECEIVED IN ARCHIVES
13 APR 1962
PR10545/1

A)

I have been asked to send you a spare copy of Leslie Glass' circular letter PR 1011/55/G of 23rd February and of it's two enclosures. Copies were sent to the High Commissioner with Costley-White's letter to Belcher PG 40/81/5 of 27th February.

Yours

(G.S. Bozman.)

P. Joy, Esq.,
New Delhi.